

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. In a telecommunications network, a method comprising the steps of:
2 receiving a request to forward calls directed to a first destination to a second
3 destination; and
4 contacting the second destination to obtain an approval for forwarding calls to the
5 second destination.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of denying the request to forward
2 calls when the approval is not obtained.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of granting the request to forward
2 calls when the approval is obtained.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of contacting comprises placing a call to the
2 second destination and requesting the approval.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the telecommunications system includes an
2 interactive voice response (IVR) unit that generates a voice message for requesting the
3 approval.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the first destination is a telephone set.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the first destination is a computer system with
2 telephony capabilities for placing a call.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the second destination is a computer system with
2 telephony capabilities for receiving a call.
- 1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the second destination is a computer system with
2 telephony capabilities for receiving a call.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the second destination is a telephone set.

1 11. In a telecommunications network having a first computer system and a second
2 computer system, a method comprising the steps of:
3 providing a configuration wherein a video communication session is initially directed
4 to the first computer system;
5 receiving a request to direct the video communication session to the second computer
6 system;
7 sending a communication to the second computer system to obtain approval of the
8 request; and
9 redirecting the video communication session to the second computer system when the
10 approval is obtained.

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1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the video communication session is a video
2 conferencing session.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises
2 sending an electronic mail message.

1 14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises
2 sending a video mail message.

1 15. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises
2 sending a facsimile.

1 16. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of sending the communication comprises
2 placing a phone call.

1 17. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of denying the request when the
2 approval is not obtained.

1 18. A call forwarding system comprising:
2 a switch for directing calls intended for a first destination to a second destination
3 when call forwarding is activated; and
4 approval logic coupled to the switch for contacting the second destination to obtain
5 approval for directing of the calls before call forwarding is activated.

1 19. The call forwarding system of claim 18, wherein the switch is a private branch
2 exchange (PBX).

1 20. The call forwarding system of claim 17, wherein the approval logic comprises an
2 interactive voice response unit for generating a verbal message soliciting the approval for the
3 directing of the calls.

1 21. The call forwarding system of claim 17, wherein call forwarding is not activated if the
2 approval for the directing of the calls is not obtained.